

Message Text

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42 L

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 10070

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MPOL, NATO, PFOR

SUBJECT: AD HOC EUROPEAN DEFENSE PROCUREMENT GROUP

REF: USNATO 6043 AND THE THAGE 5670

1. DAVIGNON WAS PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE
EURO GROUP MINISTERIAL MEETING IN THE HAGUE. HE SAID
THAT THE MINISTERS HAD LOOKED FOR A FORMULA TO PROMOTE
EUROPEAN DEFENSE PROCUREMENT COOPERATION IN AN ALLIANCE
FRAMEWORK THAT THE FRENCH COULD PARTICIPATE IN.
DAVIGNON THOUGHT THAT THEY HAD COME UP WITH A GOOD

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APPROACH. ALL HAD AGREED THAT THE MAIN PURPOSE OF

ANY EUROPEAN EFFORT MUST BE TO ADVANCE THE COMMON NATO DEFENSE EFFORT, TO GIVE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES A VESTED ECONOMIC INTEREST IN DEFENSE, AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO STANDARDIZATION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

2. DAVIGNON HAS LONG THOUGHT THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMITMENT TO DEFENSE WOULD BE ENHANCED IF THERE WERE MORE ADVANCED AND MORE PRODUCTIVE DEFENSE INDUSTRIES IN EUROPE. HE ALSO THINKS THAT STANDARDIZATION CAN WORK ONLY IF IT IS FULLY ON A TWO-WAY BASIS AND THAT EUROPEAN INDUSTRIES COULD PRODUCE MILITARY EQUIPMENT THAT MIGHT INTEREST THE U.S. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT ONLY IF THERE IS A HIGH DEGREE OF COOPERATION AMONG EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND INDUSTRIES ON DEFENSE PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT.

3. DAVIGNON SAID THAT EUROPEAN DEFENSE PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT WITHOUT FRANCE WOULD BE INADEQUATE. THUS THE EFFORT AT THE HAGUE TO FIND AN AD HOC MECHANISM OUTSIDE OF THE EURO GROUP THAT FRANCE MIGHT BE ABLE JOIN. THE RESULTS OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING AT THE HAGUE, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED CREATION OF AN AD HOC EUROPEAN DEFENSE PROCUREMENT GROUP, HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATED TO PARIS. ACCORDING TO DAVIGNON, THE FRENCH HAVE NOT YET REACTED. DAVIGNON SAID THAT IF THE FRENCH DECLINE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AD HOC GROUP, IT WILL BE ABANDONED AND THE COOPERATIVE EFFORT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE EURO GROUP.

4. DAVIGNON SAID THAT THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THIS INITIATIVE CAME FROM GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS, AND BELGIUM. THE BRITISH WERE THE MOST RELUCTANT. THEY WERE MORE INTERESTED IN TRYING TO SELL ITEMS OFF THE SHELF THAN IN DEVELOPING A GENUINE EUROPEAN DEFENSE PROCUREMENT PROGRAM. FIRESTONE

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